

## Short story comprehension

**Have the children read the story and answer questions from the story. More questions can be added.**

Crick, Jay, Buzz, and the rest of the group were strolling through the grassy forest and came upon a new bug; slowly, the little bug moved toward the group while greeting them with a wide smile painted on his face. The bug also had a huge yellow flower sticking out of a big top hat that bounced up and down each time he took a step in the direction of the group of friends. One at a time, everyone greeted the bug and introduced one another with the exception of Walter because he was more interested in the colorful paint on the bug's little face. Rather than introducing himself, Walter asked, "what are you," and the little bug replied with an equally curious voice and said, "I am a circus caterpillar, and I do magic tricks!"

Again Walter speaks. "What is your name?"

"Well, my friends call me Buddy! Are you my new friends?"

The bugs look at one another, and Jay replies, "yes, we are your new friends!"

Walter introduces himself. "My name is Walter."

"Hi friend!" Buddy says excitedly.

"So, Buddy, what are you doing here?" Jay asks, and before he can say another word, the little bug bursts into tears. "I'm lost, and I need to find my way back to the big top because it's time for my show," Buddy cries.

"Oh no!" Jay exclaims, "Hey everyone, sounds like we're going on a new adventure!" However, Walter appears hesitant. "But what if we all get lost, maybe we should think about this. Besides, I'm already tired from our walk through the forest."

"I think Walter is right, we need a plan," Crick says as he reaches in his bag for a pencil and pad. "So Buddy, which direction did you come from?"

"I'm not sure but I do recall seeing a huge bucket and shovel," says the little bug with wonder.

Jay smiles. "Great! We know exactly where that is—so let's get started on our adventure!"

"Not so fast," Crick says, looking thoughtful. "First we need to know what else he saw so I can draw a map!"

“Oh yes, I remember seeing a big purple octopus but he was hard at work so I didn’t want to bother him.”

“Great, the map will be complete in a minute!”

Buddy grins. “You guys are great and I would love for you to watch my show!”

The group cheers and within minutes they are on their way. But as they start walking, Crick checks the time and says, “I think we will need a faster mode of transportation,” and to that Jay replies, “to the yellow submarine!”

During the ride, Walter sings a song to ease the little bug, and this makes everyone smile and makes the ride to the big top much shorter. As soon as they arrive, all the bugs run inside when they hear the music blaring from the other side of the huge curtain, and before they know it, their new little friend is center stage hanging upside down while being introduced by another caterpillar with a big top hat.

“Come one, come all to see the marvelous magic of Buddy the Magical Caterpillar!  
“Drum roll please!”

Everyone under the big top focuses their attention on Buddy, who has disappeared, leaving a small cocoon. However, as the drum rolls, the cocoon starts to move and break until finally a beautiful butterfly emerges. The bugs scream with excitement. “Buddy is the greatest magician of all!”

### **After reading carefully, answer these questions**

1. Name two characters that were strolling through the forest.
2. What happens when the drum is rolling?
3. Who checked the time and said that they need a faster mode of transportation?
4. What was the name of the little bug?
5. Is what Buddy did truly magic? Have you seen other caterpillars do what he did?

After asking the children these questions, you may wish to use Buddy’s transformation in the story to further explain the process of metamorphosis.